

Fuel for Thought

June 2004

The 939th Air Refueling Wing, Portland, Ore.

Vol. 2, Issue 6

Farewell!

Col Kyle is re-assigned



Some Portland highlights

left - Portland's first KC-135.

middle left - casing the RQW colors during the wing conversion ceremony.

below - CFC pancake breakfast.

below middle - Family Day and the "Big Dawg" racing team.

bottom left - deploying to Turkey.

bottom right - 1,000 flying hours in the KC-135.



*U.S. Air Force
Photographs*



Congratulations

Civilian

Welcome

Catherine Forman
Daniel Prescott
Matthew Schoemehl

939ARW
939MXS
939ARW

Promotions

Loren Chapman
Stephen Lee

939AMXS
939MSS

Military

Welcome

Maj Brian Kobashigawa
MSgt Velincia Johnson
SSgt Robert Fredericks
SSgt Shane Shobar
SrA Michael Blessing
SrA Jane Dalglish
SrA Kyle Johnson
A1C Sean Darst
A1C Charles Herron
A1C Sarah Kincaid
A1C Jill King
A1C Kenneth Kramer
A1C Frank Ritchey

64ARS
64ARS
939MDS
939MSS
939AMXS
939MXS
83APS
939MXS
939OSF
939MDS
939LRS
304RQS
939AMXS

Edward Angle
Renee Levi
Jeffrey Stimpson
Robert Hargrove

939ARW
939MDS
83APS
83APS

To Technical Sergeant

David Anderson
Marc Thomas
Randy Loyer
Jeremiah Vanblaricom

304RQS
83APS
939MXS
939SVF

To Staff Sergeant

Karla Cochran

939CES

To Senior Airman

George Ogilvie
Brian Eagleheart
John McFeters

939ARW
939OSF
939CF

Promotions

To Major

Kenneth Coykendall
Brent Duax
Sean Pierce
Kelvin Scribner

64ARS
939MOF
64ARS
64ARS

To 1st Lieutenant

Chris Bernard
Quintin Nelson
Mark Ross
Ross Willson

304RQS
304RQS
304RQS
304RQS

To Senior Master Sergeant

James Martin
Shawn Payne

64ARS
939OSF

To Master Sergeant

Jimmy Delatorre
Gregory Doss

83APS
939MXS

Military Awards

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj Steven Barnes
Maj Jerry Parrish
Maj Brent Payton
Maj Kirk Peddicord
Maj Nancy Ronan
CMSgt Dale Barrett
SMSgt Edward Freeman
MSgt Michael Johnson
MSgt George Winslow

939MSG
939JAG
939MXG
939AMXS
939MDS
939ARW
939MSS
939OG
83APS

Air Force Commendation Medal

MSgt Arthur Utter
SSgt Jamie Burwell

83APS
939AMXS

Fuel for Thought

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939 ARW Commander

Col. Mark A. Kyle

Chief of Public Affairs

Maj. Karen Magnus

Public Affairs Specialist/Editor/Admin

Roger A. Edwards



photo by Maj Karen Magnus

Col Mark Kyle, 939th Air Refueling Wing Commander, congratulates CMSgt Dale Barrett, 939 ARW Command Chief Master Sergeant, upon his retirement during a ceremony held during the May UTA.



photo by TSgt Ed Angle

Capt Brett Duax, maintenance officer, was promoted to Major and pins on his new rank at ceremony held over the May UTA. His girlfriend, Caysie Torrey, and mother, Lynn Duax, pinned on the oak leaves.



photo by TSgt Ed Angle

Col James Ostrander, 939th Medical Squadron Commander, enlisted Robert Ostrander, his son, in a ceremony held during the May UTA. Robert, who was U.S. Marine Corps, is now a boom operator with the Air Force Reserve. His ultimate goal is to become a pilot.



SMSgt Paul "P.T." Barnum, 939th Air Refueling Wing Security Forces Superintendent, was re-enlisted by Lt Col Elaine Barron, 939th Mission Support Group Deputy Commander, in a ceremony held during the May UTA.



George "Rob" Ogilvie, 939ARW Financial Management, was promoted to SrA in a ceremony held during the May UTA. Here Capt Sher Gardner and CMSgt Dale Barrett provide the "Tacks" to insure the promotion sticks.



83APS awards/retirements

Maj Connie Jenkins, 83d Aerial Port Squadron Commander, presided over a ceremony during the May UTA, during which medals were presented and three senior enlisted members retired. MSgt Art Utter (upper left) was presented with the Air Force Commendation Medal upon his retirement; MSgt Frank LaMothe (upper right) was presented with Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal upon his retirement. MSgt George Winslow (left) was presented the Meritorious Service Medal upon his retirement, while MSgt Timothy Mayhew (lower left) was presented with the Air Force Volunteer Medal. SMSgt Joyce Crocker (lower right) was presented the Meritorious Service Medal, earned at her previous unit.





photo by Maj Karen Magnus

939th Air Refueling Wing Command, Col Mark Kyle, presents an Appreciation Plaque to Elaine Jordan, retiring manager of the Portland Base Exchange, following 30-years of service to the Air Force Community. Elaine retired on April 30th.



Col Richard Gano, 939th Mission Support Group Commander, presents a Meritorious Service Medal to Maj Steven Barnes upon his retirement in a ceremony held during the May UTA.



Edward Angle, 939th Air Refueling Wing Information Management Specialist, was promoted to master sergeant in a ceremony held during the May UTA. Lt Col Dana Difford, 939ARW Executive Officer, and co-worker MSgt Greg Thress, provided new rank insignia (left). CMSgt Dale Barrett (right), Command Chief Master Sergeant, inducted him into the wing's senior enlisted ranks.



photos by Maj Karen Magnus



photo by Julie Altman

Julie Altman of the wing financial management office, and her husband Buzz, are proud to announce the birth of the newest member of their farm family – Ingleside Duke. Ingleside, an English Shire Draft Horse, was born on May 11. “We named him after the dairy Buzz’s family owned and operated while Buzz was growing up,” said Mrs. Altman. “Our own small farm is named Ingleside Shires and we’re following the naming convention from England in naming the foal – you include the name of the farm where the horse was born. For instance, Ingleside’s mother is Penlan Victoria Rose and she is from Penlan Farm in England.”

Entertainment Industry Civic Leader Tour

by Capt. Andra Higgs
4th Air Force Public Affairs

The Secretary of the Air Force Entertainment Industry Tour that departed from March Field May 18 on a two-day journey showcased Air Force operations and people to industry decision

makers with a task of inspiring screenwriters, directors, producers and studio executives to start Air Force-themed projects or cast blue-suit personnel or ideas into ventures currently in production.

A group of 28 guests – with an impressive list of projects credentials – boarded a 939th Air Refueling Wing, Portland IAP, Ore., KC-135 here destined to Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., where they were given a first-hand look at one of Air Combat Command's premier bases. The 939th is one of 4th Air Force's 15 flying wings.

"The guests were able to see the Air Force in action," said Capt. Regen Wilson, chief of entertainment industry relations for the Secretary of the Air Force. The Hollywood types also got a bird's-eye view from the Air Force tanker's boom pod as F-16s pulled up for gas enroute to Arizona.



Screenwriter and producer David J. Ayer, Crave Films, checks out the special force's modified version of the M-4 rifle.

"The trip introduced [our guests] to people in the Air Force, some of whom just came back from combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan."

The leaders from film, television, video games and music videos got to eat with, meet and talk to fighter pilots, special

forces, pararescue professionals and other talented airmen with support functions critical to the Air Force mission – from weather and air traffic control to maintenance and military personnel.

"When we first landed at Baghdad International Airport, most of the folks thought it was going to be like one big camping trip," said A1C Odell Slaughter, an air traffic controller with the 355th Operations Support Squadron. He was one of scores of airmen recently back from deployment whom the tour group had occasion to speak with. "People were setting up and watching their DVD players and being really cool. But when rockets and mortar shells started lobbing in at night and folks had to run for bunkers, people changed. Some folks really started flipping

out. You really got to know some folks. It was not a game."

In addition to round-table conversation, breaking bread in the dining facility, a lunch of MREs inside a make-shift, camouflage-netting styled passenger terminal baggage room was converted into a fashion house as airmen boot-stomped the catwalk in multiple versions of old, current and future chemical warfare suits. There was also an aerial demonstration by the West Coast A-10 Demonstration Team from Davis-Monthan that featured precision hand signals between the pilot and ground support crew – an impressive display, by any standard, of Air Force teamwork.

"This is an invaluable experience in terms of exposure to things you might otherwise not have a chance to see and to people you might not get a chance to speak with," said David Ayers, screenwriter and president of Crave Films. A former Navy seaman, he is the screenwriter of several recent big-screen hits that include "Fast and The Furious," "S.W.A.T.," "Dark Blue," "Training Day" and "U-571." "I've been in a writing frenzy lately and this trip comes at just the right time for me. I needed to get away for a minute so that I could refocus on a script that has to be completed next week."

Industry leaders for these trips are selected based on the

Con't on next page



Entertainment industry civic leader J.P. "Rick" Guerin, chairman, Tapestry Films, gets the details from an A-10 pilot on the operation of the plane's 30 mm gun.

photo by Capt Andra Higgs

photo by Capt Andra Higgs

Entertainment Industry Civic Leader Tour

Con't from previous page

Air Force's desire to highlight its core competencies and values to citizens throughout the world, results of which come in the form of development opportunities, screenplays and finished projects that focus on existing mission elements and the human factor that drives the blue-suit machine. Prior military knowledge or experience is not

necessary for selection, but having the resources or access to generate Air Force-themed projects certainly greases the skids.

"That was amazing, the reality of the equipment," said Tom McCafferty, referring to virtual-reality headgear and a hanging harness which simulated a parachute jump over a jungle. He is a producer with the Pitt Group, creators

of the television programs "JAG" and "ER." This group is in development for a series about pararescue airmen. "I saw some things that really gave me a different perspective. It's



An entertainment industry civic leader drives the A-10 simulator.

photo by Capt Andra Higgs

proved" access to equipment, locations, personnel and technical advice are among services offered. A few examples of previous projects that have received a green light through the Secretary's Los Angeles-based office include "Air Force One," "The Perfect Storm," "Armageddon," "The Silence of the Lambs" and "Pearl Harbor." Moviegoers can expect to see an Air Force IMAX movie in theaters soon.

One current small-screen project that has received such on-going support is the Sci-Fi Channel "Stargate SG-1" series.

"This trip has provided some technical nuances that will allow us to expand some reality themes for [one of] our interactive product," said Neil Halder, vice president for production and business development for MGM Studios Interactive. The company is putting the final touches on the

"Stargate SG-1" first-person interactive DVD-based game slated for release this year.

"We conveyed to these important civic leaders the spirit of the Air Force," said Brig. Gen. John Gruesser, 4th Air Force vice commander. He was the official escort for the trip. "The full range of missions - Reserve, Guard, active-duty - were all on display. There is tremendous value to these types of tours."

The partnership between Hollywood and the military began when Army Air Corps personnel advised D.W. Griffith in 1915 during production of "The Birth of a Nation." The 1927 silent-film "Wings" won the first Academy Award and that was the seed that grew into the current Office of Entertainment Liaison (www.airforcehollywood.af.mil).



photo by Capt Andra Higgs

Brig. Gen. John Gruesser, 4th Air Force vice commander (right) and MSgt. Ron Middleton, 355th Operations Support Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., secure civic leader Jonathan Lawton into a parachute simulation harness. Lawton wrote and produced the movie "Pretty Woman."

been an invaluable experience."

The widgets to gain Air Force support for a production include reviewing scripts and production focuses. If "ap-





photo by Maj Karen Magnus

Ten Prairie High School Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps seniors (right) were given an orientation flight with the 939th Air Refueling Wing on May 27. They were flown on a refueling mission aboard a KC-135 Stratotanker, and given the opportunity to study the duties of the various crewmen. The mission was to refuel a KC-10 Extender tanker and cargo aircraft en-route to South Korea.

Twenty Battle Ground High School Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets (left) were given an orientation flight with the 939th Air Refueling Wing on May 12. They were flown on a refueling mission aboard a KC-135 Stratotanker, and given the opportunity to study the duties of the various crewmen. The mission was to refuel F-16s conducting aerial combat exercises nearby.



photo by Maj Karen Magnus

142d slates Young American Day

by Roger Edwards

The 142d Oregon Air National Guard has scheduled "Young American Day 2004" for Saturday, June 12, from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. They have extended an invitation to young people and youth groups and their chaperones from throughout the area to join them and learn about America's Air Force.

Planned exhibits include the F-15 Eagle jet fighter, flown by the 142d; and the KC-135 Stratotanker aerial refueling tanker, flown by the Air Force Reserve's 939th Air Refueling Wing at Portland International Airport. These exhibits will be joined by those provided by local police and fire departments, giving young people the opportunity to visit and learn from a full spectrum of men and women who have chosen careers in uniformed public service.

This is the 15th year that the 142d has sponsored "Young American Day," formerly known as "Scout Day."

The 142nd will not offer guided tours during the event, but many Guard and Reserve members will be available to answer any questions you may have about the exhibits. Hot dogs and soda will be available for sale throughout the event, and pins, patches, hats and T-shirts depicting unit insignia will be available for purchase at prices from \$3 to \$30 dollars. Air National Guard posters will be available to each young person at no charge as long as supplies last.

Security considerations have complicated the situation this year, since visitors must be identified before entering the installation. Those individuals who already have their vehicles tagged for base entry can enter with their visitors

on the strength of those tags. If the vehicle is not already cleared for base access, the driver must get a temporary pass. To get a temporary vehicle pass, the driver must request it ahead of time. The request must include the driver's name, address, telephone number and vehicle operator's license unique information (state and license I.D. number); and a list of all passengers to be present in the vehicle (young people and escorts). The passes will be collected by a security forces officer upon entrance to the installation. All vehicles entering the installation are subject to search, and all adults must carry valid identification.

The 142nd will send group leaders as many passes as needed, with the numerical codes of each recorded under the name to which it was sent.

Security recommends car pooling as parking is limited and secure entry procedures will consume a certain amount of time for each vehicle.

Cameras are encouraged. However, camera bags, diaper bags, purses, etc., will be searched prior to entering the exhibit area. Backpacks will not be allowed in the exhibit area.

Additional information and passes may be obtained by contacting Mary Bell. She may be reached at 503-335-4193, or via e-mail at mary.bell@orport.ang.af.mil. Those individuals who work on or have access to the installation may pick up their passes in person. Passes can be mailed, but requests should be made in time for mail out no later than June 9.



photo by Maj Karen Magnus



photo by MSgt Greg Thress

BG Moen pays return visit

Brig Gen Moen, former 939th Resque Wing Commander and currently commander of the 445th Air Wing at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, was on hand to commission his daughter as an Air Force second lieutenant at the University of Portland ceremony on May 2, 2004. He was also the guest speaker for the ceremony as well as for the 939th Air Refueling Wing's Dining Out on May 1st.



photo by MSgt Greg Thress

Stars and Stripes offers free electronic newspapers

by Army Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Forces Press Service

4/30/2004 - WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Service members who do not have access to the Stars and Stripes newspaper but do have access to a computer can now go online to read or download an exact replica of the paper at no charge.

Stars and Stripes officials said the electronic version of the newspaper is an effort to reach readers in remote areas.

Free online versions of the newspaper's European, Pacific and Middle East editions became available April 26.

Tom Kelsch, the newspaper's publisher, said the free online newspaper is geared toward service members in remote locations, but that any service member assigned anywhere in the world, as well as family members, can use the service.

"We have many military (people) stationed in places where it just isn't practical to get the printed edition to them, and this is a way to be able to reach (them) wherever in the world they're stationed," Mr. Kelsch said.

Service members and their families can read the paper online or download it in portable document format at estripes.osd.mil. Officials recommend that readers who want to print the paper and read it that way use the "fit to paper" option when printing. The site also offers free access to past newspapers for seven days.

The electronic newspaper is a cost-effective way to get the Stars and Stripes to service members at bases in

isolated places overseas, such as Iceland or Crete, where delivery is expensive, Mr. Kelsch said. It is also a way for the newspaper to reach service members stateside at bases "where circulation is low or the paper is not offered," he said.

Offering Stars and Stripes free online to service members does not mean the printed edition is going away, Mr. Kelsch

said. Evidence indicates most people still want to hold a newspaper in their hands, and the online version



really is most valuable to people who cannot get the paper otherwise, he said.

Printed editions of the paper still will be delivered to service members in places like Afghanistan and Iraq, where computer access is limited, he said. Each day nearly 45,000 copies of the paper are delivered throughout the Middle East region, and plans call for increasing that number, he said. The newspaper delivers about 25,000 copies to Iraq, another 3,500 to Afghanistan and 15,000 to Kuwait, he said.

Mr. Kelsch said the primary reason for the free offer is to help the newspaper fulfill its mission to get the paper out to service members.

"We have a mission to serve, and we intend to serve that mission," he said. "This is a way that we can do it very well, and so we're going to do it."

Last year, Stars and Stripes began offering a paid subscription service for the electronic version of its daily paper. Mr. Kelsch said that few readers subscribed to the electronic edition.



Scanning the horizon

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Senior Airman James McGregor scans the horizon for potential threats, preparing for a convoy operation. Airman McGregor recently graduated from a training course designed to teach transportation Airmen how to survive during convoy operations in potentially hostile locations. He is a vehicle operator deployed from the Air Force Reserve's 939th Air Refueling Wing at Portland International Airport. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Tom Knowles)

Notes from Iraq

(Editor's Note: Captain Stanley Paregien (Cowboy Guitar Stan) is an Air Force Reserve Public Affairs Officer on duty in Iraq. He has been keeping a journal with pictures, documenting his time in that sad but hopeful nation, and sending portions back to friends. His friends have, in turn, made some of the material available for our use.)

Hey everyone...I know the news today in Iraq was terrible and we had another ALARM RED attack, but let me tell you all something positive to counteract what happened in Baghdad and Karbala with the terrorist bombing at the Shiite Religious Festival:

I've got to say a huge Thanks to all of YOU who sent pencils, crayons, and writing paper for the children of Iraq...we made a trip to a primarily KURDISH school...they are appreciated SO MUCH by these kids who don't have much in the way of school materials.



The TEACHERS wanted be sure to say "THANK YOU AMERICANS!!!"

The interpreter relayed to us that one little girl wanted to sing us a Kurdish song; her father was killed by Saddam Hussein cronies last year...it just about broke everyone's heart. I think the guys in the photo are her brothers and cousins, protecting her obviously, but also showing support to her. Later, all the kids surrounded us in the courtyard and sang us a song in Arabic, and then they did ABC's in English. WHAT



A JOYOUS SOUND TO HEAR CHILDREN'S SONGS AND LAUGHTER versus hearing rockets and mortars flying over our heads.

This was made possible by each of you who have

supported Operation Iraqi Freedom. Whether you slap a soldier or airmen on the back, send a package, or write a letter, it all helps lift spirits of military personnel and the local population who are trying to get out from under years of internal strife, believe me. If you want to continue sending items to kids here (clothes, calculators, pens, etc., address to:

506 AEG/Charitable Program
APO AE
09359

We go from one extreme to another...one moment we are having a performance by the Kirkuki Freedom Boys Band, and the next thing

we are in the dark under an Alarm Red attack. This seems to be our lot in life. Work. Turn on flashlights when the sun goes down. Be close to a bunker, and try to make our own entertainment, since no USO shows are scheduled anytime soon.



THE KIRKUKI FREEDOM BOYS

The other day we started loading up school supplies, and the process repeated later...we had incoming in broad daylight



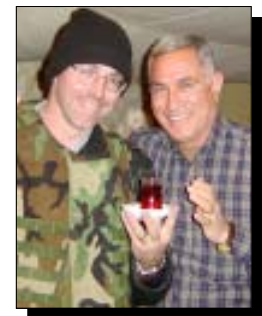
Inside the bunker

afternoon. Now, we've had rocket attacks the last 5 out of 8 days...day and nighttime, you know it doesn't matter to jerks and terrorists, talk about fireworks shows...July 4th is here early. The other night the tracers were all over the sky. I ran into SSgt. James Smith from the 932nd Airlift

Wing, and he is doing a fine job in the Readiness Shop here keeping the base up to speed on surviveability methods and training. He took a break from the events last night to let me interview him and that should be coming out soon.

Sergeant Smith is working in our building tonight, within the command post, and he is the calming voice that comes on the radios after attacks to check on the status of people in buildings and bunkers. He volunteered for this deployment. I'm proud of his Reserve training and all the active duty, guard, Army and Air Force personnel working together here with the local good guys to rid the community of evil terrorists and Saddam loyalists who still lurk.

TRANSLATORS HELP US DAILY. I have talked to Syrians and Kurds who were put in jail (like Mr Taha in the photo attached), a few Turkmen, and very wise Shiite Arabs who truly want peace within IRAQ. They appreciate our American help cleaning the pond scum here. They are quite SAD when we suffer losses and injury right alongside them in senseless attacks. It is going to take time, but our efforts will help the next generation immensely. The children who are learning to get along now will lead the country.



Stan

“Under the Table” new lifesaving kit

by Roger Edwards

The phrase “under the table” in the past has been used as a barroom challenge. It’s now being used in a new, more positive way as the name of a personal survival kit. The “Under the Table” workstation safety kit provides a pouch of water, a 12-hour light stick, a dust mask and a whistle in a convenient to store plastic tube that can be attached to the underside of a desk – basic shelter in the event of a real emergency situation.

“We’re working to provide the kit to each of the 939ths full time workers,” said Mr Charles Knapp of the 939th Civil Engineering Squadron

Disaster Preparedness Office. “It’s designed by the Red Cross to provide the most basic survival supplies and a means to lead rescuers to you. For example, here on the West Coast, we have earthquake and volcanic activity. A large quake might collapse the building before you can get out. You’re sheltered under your desk, but trapped by the wreckage. Using the whistle included in this kit can lead rescuers to your position and your early recovery.”

Safety tubs are also being assigned to the major wing buildings. “There are lots of people concentrated in maintenance, operations and the wing headquarters buildings,” said Mr Knapp. “These tubs hold water, first aid kits, food, flashlights, survival blankets and radios among the supplies. They’re simply more robust, enhanced versions of the individual kit and can provide for the basic necessities until help arrives.”

“The kits we’re putting out are provided by the Oregon Trail Chapter of the American Red Cross,” Knapp continued. “I would encourage each person to acquire such a kit for home emergencies, or to build one customized to your needs and the needs of your family.

“A survival kit should contain food, water, first aid supplies, light, an emergency radio, batteries for both, basic tools (knife, an all-in-one tool), supplies for babies (if

applicable), supplies for pets (if applicable), a can opener, etc.”

Another good tip from MSgt Mike Clarke of the wing safety office, is that “once you have a kit (purchased or built), be sure to check its contents at least once a year. Some of the supplies in your kit will have expiration dates. Medical supplies can lose their effectiveness over time for

example, and canned food and batteries can only be stored for just so long. Check the dates and replace the items that have expired.”

A Google search of the web for “survival kit contents” returned 248,000 hits. Refining the search by adding Red Cross reduced the number of hits to 37,400. There is plenty of information available on the topic (one hint warns against using metal whistles in your kit – the material might freeze to your lips in very cold weather) and

there are plenty of suggestions. Take advantage and, as the Boy Scout motto says – “be prepared.”



The Red Cross “Under the Table” Safety Kit includes water, a 12-hour chemical light stick, a dust mask, a whistle and a velcro attachment for stowing the kit under your desk.

Red Cross Photo



Ted's Son, Brandon

He knows where he's going

by Roger Edwards

Brandon Height is a young man who has traveled the first steps on the road to success. A seventeen ("I'll be 18 in July") year old high school senior at Sandy High School, Brandon is the son of Ted Height, 939th Air Refueling Wing Comptroller.

He is also a well versed musician and the newest member, the singer, of the metal band "Agitated."

Agitated is creating a stir in the local "metal" community. They were reported on by both "The Gresham Outlook" and "The Mountain Echoes" after performing in an April 9 Metal Show at Portland's Meow Meow Club. "Agitated" kicked off the six band program featuring Brandon in his first appearance as their lead singer with what Kayla Slovick, a staff writer for the Sandy High School "Mountain Echoes" called "an edgy new sound."

"I guess I got started in music in the third grade," said Brandon. "That's when I got my first guitar."

He has eclectic tastes in music. "I've been active in the

church choir," he said. "But I've also played base for two different jazz choirs and have sung in a classical choir." He

enjoys listening to classical, alternate rock, and (with his sister) to rap and hip hop.

Born in New Mexico, Brandon has traveled with his military family. "We moved around while my father was on active duty," he said, "and lived in Japan before coming back here to Portland where my father switched to the Air Force Reserve."

Brandon is working part-time at the base recreation center as a recreational aide after school. "I'll go full time this summer after graduation," he said, "until college starts in the fall." Brandon intends to pursue training at ITT in electronics and automotive engineering. But he also

intends to keep up with his music.

"Right now we're (Agitated) trying to work up some new material and we're planning to do another show in Sandy for the Dornbecker Hospital Fund. Keep an eye out for the announcement and come see us.



Brandon Height, singing member of the band "Agitated," and his proud pop, Ted, both work for the 939th Air Refueling Wing.

photo by Roger Edwards

Report after hour injuries

Most often minor injuries (those requiring stitches, seeking medical emergency or the loss of a day of work)



that occur after hours at your home do not get reported to the Wing Safety Office.

These injuries are important to report, because your information will help to determine how and why we injure ourselves. The wing safety office compiles this injury data and annually creates a report that breaks down month, day, time, age, body part and so on.

You may think this type of information is for your commanders and doesn't mean anything to you, but you would be wrong. We all use risk analysis daily to determine how best to get to work, do our jobs and even decide the state of our health. This information will help all of us to reduce the risks to our organization and ourselves. When giving your information to the safety office be sure to give the date, time, age of the person and a short description of what happened. You can view last year's report by going to the 939ARW Safety Website.

We are all assets to the Air Force and the loss of just one of us can have an impact on the on-going mission.

101 critical days

Beware of summer accidents

Each summer we lose airmen in preventable accidents during a period we call the "101 critical days." Last summer we lost 36 airmen to needless mishaps—many more than in 2002, and almost double the number of 2001. Despite our concentrated focus on mishap prevention, we have seen an increase in the number of injuries and deaths due to senseless accidents.

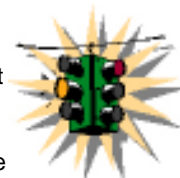


To date, we have accumulated our worst fatal mishap record in over 10 years.

It is time to reverse this trend.

As you begin to plan your well-earned summer vacation, remember to make safety part of your plans. Some of you are planning vacations that will include sailing, rock climbing, sky diving, motorcycles riding and other challenging

activities. These can be fun, but they all involve risk. Even if you don't partake in risky activities, remember to stay alert on the road, and to plan your trip with breaks and rest stops included in your travel time. Almost 90 percent of our fatal accidents occur during off-duty hours. The overwhelming majority of these accidents involve private motor vehicles.



Every day our superb airmen demonstrate their professionalism and training in a dangerous profession. The same standards you embrace on the job pertain outside the gate as well. When you relax from the job, don't relax your good judgment.

The Air Force goal remains zero mishaps; I ask every airman to make that your personal goal. Let's turn this thing around!

Oregon soldier, 21, dies in electrical accident in Iraq swimming pool

by Michael Clarke

EUGENE - An Oregon soldier assigned to the Stryker Brigade based in Fort Lewis, Wash., died Saturday in an accident in Mosul, Iraq, according to the Department of Defense. The individual was in a swimming pool when an electrical current charged the water. An investigation is under way to determine the cause of the accident. (From the Oregonian – May 10, 2004)

It takes an extremely small amount of current to stop your heart and it doesn't necessarily have to be in a pool like this event. You could be washing your car with the radio

playing beside you, or you could be pressure washing your driveway on a hot day. What these have in common is the opportunity for small amperages to do the job.

What I didn't say was what allowed the amperage to get to the heart... The

current has to be conducted. Most often when you wash your car it is a hot day so you dress for the occasion in shorts, light shirt and barefoot. If that vacuum you have next to the car is plugged in to an extension cord that is frayed or faulty the chain of events are lined up and is just waiting for the flip of the switch to be introduced. When your foot and the cord are on the wet surface and you flip the vacuums switch, you become a big ground and zap! The

same scenario can be played for a pressure washer. The key item is being barefoot. By being barefoot you are allowing yourself to be the conduit for the amperage. This is controllable if you take the electrical risk away; dress for the job, use rubber soled shoes, etc. If electricians must be in the area be sure the extension cord is safe to use, check the cord for frays, and insure that it is designed for outdoor use and be sure you plug into a safe outlet (such as a breaker protected outlet or a Ground Fault Interrupt outlet).

(Editor's Note: This tragic accident happened in Iraq, but just as well could have occurred here in Portland. Be aware



Thrift Savings Plan open until June 30

The current Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) open season began on April 15 and ends on June 30, 2004. During the open season, you may begin contributing to the TSP or change the amount of your TSP contributions. During this open season, employees covered by FERS, may elect to contribute to the TSP up to 14% of the basic pay they earn each pay period; employees covered by CSRS may elect to contribute up to 9% of the basic pay they earn each pay period.

How to make a contribution election. To make a contribution election, you will need to contact the Benefits and Entitlement Service Team (BEST) at 1-800-997-2378, or use the online service from the BEST website at http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST_GRB/EBIS.htm.

When elections become effective. Elections submitted 15 April - 12 June 2004 will be effective 13 June 2004 and reflected on the 2 July 2004 leave and earning statement (LES). Elections submitted 13-26 June 2004 will be effective 27 June 2004 and reflected on the 16 July 2004 LES, and elections submitted 27-30 June 2004, will be effective 11 July 2004 and reflected on the 30 July 2004 LES. Please check the appropriate LES to verify your TSP election.

How to make an investment election. To enroll in TSP or change your contribution amount, use the web-based Employee Benefits Information System (EBIS) www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST_GRB/EBIS.htm or the

BEST phone system at 1-800-616-3775. If you need assistance, please contact a benefits counselor via the BEST phone line. Counselors are available Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Central Standard Time.

To request a contribution allocation or an interfund transfer, use the TSP Web site (www.tsp.gov), the Thriftline ((504) 255-8777), or Form TSP-50 (Investment Allocation). You may request a contribution allocation or interfund transfer at any time. Contribution allocations and interfund transfer requests are processed daily, and your contribution allocation request will generally be effective no later than 2 business days after it is received.

Where to get more information about the TSP. The booklet Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan for Federal Employees describes the TSP in detail and contains more information about contribution elections, contribution allocations, and interfund transfers. The latest version of this booklet is dated May 2001. If you do not have the latest version, contact your Civilian Personnel office at (503) 335-4615. This booklet is also on the TSP Web site.

The flyer, Think Big, contains basic information about this TSP open season and presents historical rates of return for the TSP investment funds. This flyer will be provided to you shortly by Civilian Personnel.

If you have additional questions about the TSP, contact your Civilian Personnel Office or go to the TSP website at <http://www.tsp.gov>.

DoD launches military news television channel

WASHINGTON – May 13 – The Pentagon Channel, the Defense Department's news and information television service, officially launches May 14 with a live broadcast from the Armed Forces Day opening ceremony at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

The Pentagon Channel, which previously existed as an information channel within the Pentagon, will be now be distributed 24

hours a day, seven days a week, to all military installations in the United States via domestic satellite, and overseas through the American Forces Radio and Television Service.

Recent research showed that military members – both in the United States and overseas – felt that they had adequate access to general news and information, but not

enough access to military news, said Allison Barber, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Internal Communications. "The important thing about the Pentagon Channel is

it's information specifically geared to the military, and that's what our audience is looking for, because it's relevant, it's credible and it's important to their success," she said.

She said the operational tempo across the services

further demonstrated a need for DoD leaders to be able to talk directly to the military audience, Guard and Reserve members and their families, who are the most isolated from DoD news and information.

Pentagon Channel stories may also be viewed via the internet at www.pentagonchannel.mil.



the back page

Ask Sergeant Look Sharp

Question of the month...

I thought I saw someone in uniform on the local news during a protest, is that authorized?

Do not wear the uniform when...

Uniform items do not meet Air Force specifications. Participating in public speeches, interviews, picket lines, marches or rallies, or in any public demonstration when the Air Force sanction of the cause for which the activity is conducted may be implied. Furthering political activities, private employment, or commercial interests Working in an off-duty civilian capacity It would discredit the Armed Forces. In civilian attire — for example; grade insignia, cap devices, badges and insignia, distinctive buttons, etc.

Reference: AFI36-2903AFRCSup1
Chapter 1 – Table 1.3 Pg 7

AFRC personnel traveling on military aircraft for official duty that begins immediately upon arrival at a military installation must travel in the appropriate uniform.

Reference: AFI36-2903AFRCSup1
Chapter 1 – Table 1.3 Pg 7 Note: 3

Did you know...?

Wigs and Hairpieces...

(Men Only) Will be of good quality and fit properly. Members must have their medical records documented to wear a wig or hairpiece to cover baldness or disfiguration. Other male

personnel will not wear wigs or hairpieces.

(M & W) Will be in conformance with the same standards required for natural hair, be of good quality, and fit properly.

Will not exceed limits stated for natural hair and will not be worn by personnel engaged in aircraft flight line or in-flight operations.

Reference: AFI36-2903AFRCSup1
Chapter 1 – Table 1.4 - Pg 8 Line: 9, 10

Acronym of the month...

AFPD - Air Force Policy
Directive

Reference: AFI36-
2903AFRCSup1
Attachment 1 - Pg
125

Term of the month...

Field Condi- tions - Those

conditions that provide member with temporary sleeping accommodations not suitable for regular occupancy and subsistence that includes rations or prepared meals common to the operation. These conditions occur during operations,

maneuvers, war games, and field exercises, actual or simulated.

Reference: AFI36-2903AFRCSup1
Attachment 1 - Pg 126

Questions, Comments Suggestions,
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